whose counterparts are already enjoying the Constitutional facility in their respective home States and thereby redeem them from alleged Constitutional discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): In accordance with the provisions of Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution, specification of a community as a Scheduled Caste and a Scheduled Tribe, respectively, is in relation to a State or Union Territory.

UFO

2978. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Romanian Government has claimed that their planes have been attacked at least four times by UFO and their pilot was injured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is now an imminent danger of star wars; and

(d) if so, how far we are prepared for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. ISRO does not have any information on the Romanian Government's claim.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Special incentives to foreign tourists

2979. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced a special bonanza for foreign tourists visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is seriously considering to provide infrastructure status for tourism sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators and State Governments for incentivising travel from overseas to India. The incentives being offered by the stakeholders include complimentary air tickets, hotel rooms, local tours, etc.

(c) and (d) The hotel industry has been requesting for the grant of infrastructure status which entails benefits under the Income Tax Act which is within the purview of the Ministry of Finance. On the request of the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Finance had announced a

5 year Tax Holiday in the budget of 2007-08, for new hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category coming up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad. A five year Tax Holiday was also announced in the budget of 2008-09 for hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category located in all UNESCO declared World Heritage sites (except Mumbai and Delhi) which start operating ***w.e.f.*** 01.04.2008 to 31.3.2013.

Trained manpower for tourism industry

2980. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in tourism industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to train the unemployed youth under SJRY scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) It is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in hospitality industry. Under the component Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories for skill training. STEP-UP intends to provide training to the urban poor in a variety of service, business and manufacturing activities as well as in local skills and local crafts. The Ministry of Tourism has launched a special programme to create employable skills amongst youth. The programme is open to a person who is at least eighth pass and in the age group of 18 to 25 years. The programme is offering two courses: one of 6 weeks duration in Food and Beverage Service and the other of 8 weeks duration in Food Production.

Project proposals from Chhattisgarh

†2981. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the projects for which proposals to get Centre's share have been received from Chhattisgarh alongwith the time thereof;

(b) the number of those approved out of these with amount sanctioned thereof; and

(c) whether information regarding the remaining ones is still to come, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.